

WITH OUR CONTRIBUTORS

The Fundamental Place of Religious Education

By Rev. C. A. Myers, M.A.

"Religious education is that which recognizes man's divine destiny."—Professor George Albert Coe.

We have been forced to realize, through the heart searching experiences of a world War, that there is only one way to build up a Christian civilization, and that is by a thoroughgoing and adequate programme of Christian education.

That there is only one way by which Christian ideals and motives can be imposed upon a nation, has become evident,—namely, by instilling these ideals and motives into the lives of its youth.

We have witnessed with our own eyes a whole nation gone mad with wrong ideals,—almost to the point of destroying civilization itself—because that nation, through its leaders, during forty years of peace, by a thoroughly well planned system of secular and religious education, imposed these ideals on its children and youth. If Germany could thus implant a false and perverted idealism into a whole generation of its people, is it not fundamental that we should educate our children in right ideals and purposes if we would build an enduring civilization?

If it is true that the War was fought and won "to make the world safe for democracy," then surely we should be thrilled by the still greater challenge and the more fundamental need of making "democracy safe for the world."

In order that any nation—and especially a democracy like ours—shall be safe and permanent, there are two, at least, among other things that must be done.

First, its people must be made intelligent, and thus enabled to think clearly and rightly,

on the social and economical problems that confront every citizen.

Secondly, its people must be Christianized, and thus enabled and disposed to "do justly and love mercy" in all the intimate relationships of life.

Ignorance and godlessness are the two great foes of our, as of every age. The prime requisites of Canada to-day are, therefore, an up-to-date system of public education, and an adequate programme of Christian education for all the citizens, and especially for all our boys and girls and young people. These are the two pillars, as some one has well said, upon which must rest the structure of any enduring state.

The nation, through its boards of education, is addressing itself with amazing zeal and wisdom to the first of these tasks. It is spending, yearly, vast sums of money in school and college buildings—money running into millions of dollars. It is setting apart and training hundreds and thousands of its brightest and best men and women for life service in the field of education. It is equipping its teachers and schools with the latest that can be secured in the way of books, pictures and other facilities of modern education, and its aim is to make it impossible for a single child to grow up in Canada without at least a public school education in order that all of Canada's citizens of to-morrow may be intelligent.

If this is right and more than justified, how much more important is it that we should see to it that every child should receive also fundamental training in religious ideals and Christian motives! Unless the boys and girls and young people are led to know and love God, and those principles of brotherhood, fair play and justice, which, as the scriptures

A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

A Happy New Year, teachers !—

Like a fair page it lies,

This year that's just beginning

Before your wistful eyes.

Oh, dip your pen in loving

And write in shining gold

The message of the Master

Before the year grows old.

A Happy New Year, children !—

See, like a fair, new way

It stretches for your footsteps

To travel day by day.

Oh, take each turn with loving

And fill each mile with cheer,

Until you come with gladness

Unto the next New Year !

—Nancy Byrd Taylor